

TO THE OREGON INDIAN WAR CLAIMANTS.

The Oregon Indian War debts of 1854 are now being paid. The main cause of this long delay was the fraudulent claims of Griswold, assignee of M. G. Kennedy and others. If they had been just all claims should have been cut down about one third, because the awards should not exceed the amount intended to be appropriated by Congress. The Quartermaster and Commissary claims were increased about one-third after the Act passed to pay the just claims of 1854. I opposed the payment of the fraudulent claims of W. C. Griswold for the interest of the honest claimants and the Government. Griswold boasted that he would collect them. To avoid a reduction in the just claims in my hands for collection I took a large amount of evidence, and I made diligent search for Lieutenant Isaac Miller, whom I knew was present at the time Drew's original report to the Governor of Oregon was made. I at last found him; but before I found him Griswold had collected the fraudulent claims, through a report of his particular friend, W. S. Stetson, the Chief Clerk in the Claim Division of the Third Auditor's office and Brevet Captain Thos. H. Bradley in the War Department, and they succeeded, without any notice whatever, in getting me suspended from practicing as an attorney in the Treasury Department. This was done maliciously, and to discredit me and thus cover up their frauds.

Stetson, the Clerk who recommended the payment of the fraudulent claims of Griswold, and who prepared the charges against me, and who wrote the letters to you and others about me, has been removed. The whole matter was referred to the Solicitor of the Treasury, who has decided it in my favor,

and the Secretary of the Treasury has restored me to my former rights. I hope to collect the balance of the old claims of 1854 which are in my hands without further delay. If they are delayed it will be to examine the frauds. The Auditor has nearly three hundred clerks. He cannot read the papers and documents in every case, hence he is excusable for errors and frauds, which thus escape his notice. "W. S. S." on the corner of your letter and others means W. S. Stetson. He is the writer and is responsible for these letters and frauds.

The OREGON SENTINEL of the 10th and 17th of January, 1874, printed my letters to Bybee and Cardwell, and my brief before the Solicitor of the Treasury, with which the most of the readers of the SENTINEL are familiar, more particularly explains these matters.

Stetson, the real author of various letters to the Oregon claimants which bear the Auditor's signature, is, in my opinion, a partner of Griswold, and as unworthy of credit as Drew or Griswold.

The 1st Comptroller decides the appropriation for the 1855-6 war claims not to be a specific appropriation, and it must therefore be covenanted in the Treasury under the Act which requires all balances of appropriations made more than three years to be carried to the surplus fund. The 2d Comptroller and the 3d Auditor differ with the 1st Comptroller on this subject; but the requisitions have to be signed by the 1st Comptroller, so the appropriation is not available at present. Congress will correct the errors of the 1st Comptroller at its next session, and then the 1855-6 claims will be paid as usual.

B. F. DOWELL.